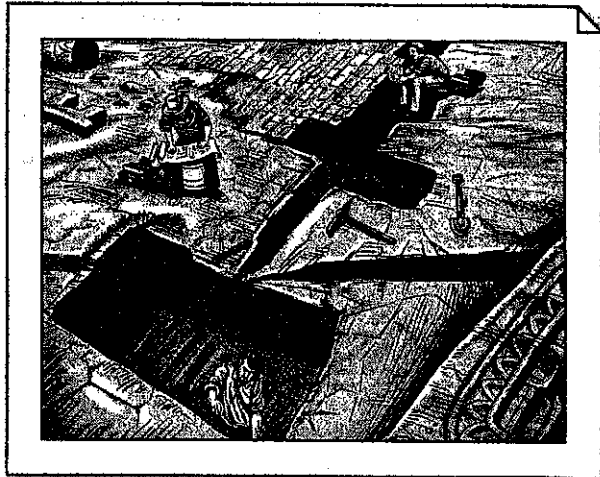




The Beginning of Civilization

The first modern humans appeared in Africa and had migrated all over the world by 10,000 B.C. Because prehistoric people had no written records, historians must study them by looking at the things they left behind. Archaeologists dig up artifacts like tools, pottery, and other things made by humans. Anthropologists use artifacts and remains of ancient humans to learn about culture, or the way people lived. Historians divide early human history into major sections like the Paleolithic Age, the Neolithic Age, and the Bronze Age. Each era is defined by the progress humans made during those years.



The earliest period of human history, called the Paleolithic Age, lasted from about 2,500,000 B.C. until 8000 B.C. This era is sometimes called the Old Stone Age because early humans used simple stone tools. During the Paleolithic Age, people found shelter in caves and learned to make fire. Paleolithic people invented the spear and the bow and arrow. These early humans hunted wild animals and gathered nuts, berries, fruits, and green plants for food. Because they depended on animal migrations and vegetation cycles, almost all Paleolithic people were nomadic. This means the hunters and their families had no permanent home, but moved from place to place.

Around 8000 B.C., the Neolithic Age, or New Stone Age, started. In the Neolithic Age, humans stopped being nomadic and settled down in small farming villages. Instead of hunting and gathering, people farmed and raised animals for food. Early farmers in Africa raised wheat, barley, root crops, and bananas. People tamed cows, pigs, goats, sheep, and dogs. In Southeast Asia, farmers grew rice in addition to wheat and barley. In Central America and present-day Mexico, people raised beans, squash, and corn.

People made tools from metal in the Bronze Age. During the Bronze Age, which lasted from 3000 B.C. until about 1000 B.C., people began to form civilizations. Civilizations are complex cultures in which groups of many people share the same characteristics. The first civilizations started in the river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.

Historians know more about the Bronze Age civilizations than about earlier people. This is because people in the Bronze Age kept written records, like laws. Each civilization had cities, government, social classes, religion, writing, and art. Over time, cultures have changed, but the basic characteristics of civilization have stayed the same.

The Beginning of Civilization

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

- 1. _____ dig up artifacts like tools and pottery.
 - A. Archaeologists
 - B. Anthropologists
 - C. Historians
 - D. Nomads
- 2. People made tools from _____ in the Bronze Age.
 - A. stone
 - B. metal
 - C. wood
 - D. vines
- 3. In the _____, humans settled in small farming villages.
 - A. Ice Age
 - B. Paleolithic Age
 - C. Neolithic Age
 - D. Bronze Age
- 4. _____ is a characteristic of civilization.
 - A. Government
 - B. Writing
 - C. Religion
 - D. all of the above
- 5. The earliest period of human history is called the _____.
 - A. Paleolithic Age
 - B. Neolithic Age
 - C. Bronze Age
 - D. African Age

Quiz: The Beginning of Civilization

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. Humans made tools from metal in the Paleolithic Age.
- _____ 2. The first civilizations started in the mountains of Asia.
- _____ 3. Neolithic humans settled in large fishing villages.
- _____ 4. Government, writing, and religion are characteristics of civilization.
- _____ 5. Humans invented the bow and arrow in the Bronze Age.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

- 6. Humans began keeping written records in the _____ Age.
 - A. Paleolithic
 - B. Neolithic
 - C. Bronze
 - D. Anthropologic
 - 7. Almost all humans in the Paleolithic Age _____.
 - A. were hunters and gatherers
 - B. were nomadic
 - C. used simple stone tools
 - D. all of the above
- Short Answer**
Answer the following question in complete sentences.
8. What do anthropologists study?

